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US ARMY

# USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News Notes



## Schinnen Safe Rider - Motorcycle Safety GROUP RIDING



Photo by Kevin Mutchler

Experienced motorcyclist catch up on their riding skills in preparation for the summer riding months during the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course held April 21.

By USAG Schinnen Installation Safety Office

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group -- whether with friends on a Sunday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally -- is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride:

**Hold a riders' meeting.** Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals. Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.

**Keep the group to a manageable size,** ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

**Ride prepared.** At least one rider in each group should

pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.

**Ride in formation.** The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and

room is needed.

**Avoid side-by-side formations,** as they reduce the space cushion.

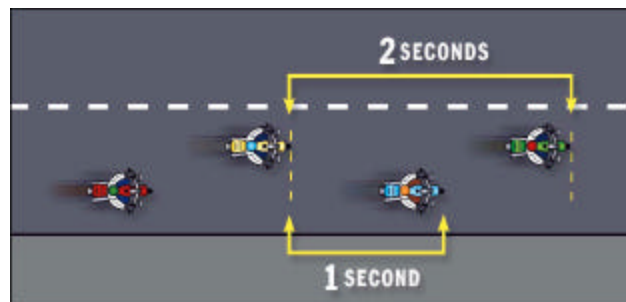
**Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror.** If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this

technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

**If you're separated from the group,** don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.

*Using these well thought out strategies will assist you having a "Safe" group ride*

*Information obtained from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) website at [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org)*



space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering

## Schinnen Safe Rider – Motorcycle Equipment Failures

By USAG Schinnen Installation Safety Office

Most motorcycle equipment failures are minor when they occur and cause no great threat to rider safety. For those, you just note the problem and get them fixed as soon as you can. Other failures, especially tire blowouts, stuck throttles and broken clutch cables, can be extreme events which, if handled improperly, can lead to a serious accident or can cause the driver to be overly pre-occupied with the situation also leading to an accident. In these cases, learning through experience is something you probably don't want to do, so read on to learn what to do if it happens to you.

### BLOWOUTS:

If you run tires of good quality, keep them at the proper pressure, and change them when the tread is worn, the chances of having a blowout are small. Should it happen to either of your tires, you must act quickly and properly.

1. Do not use the brakes; braking hard will only make things worse. If you must use some brake, apply gradual pressure to the brake on

the good tire and ease over to a safe spot to stop.

2. Ease off the throttle and slow down gradually; rapid deceleration could throw the bike out of control.



Photo By: Kevin Mutchler  
Tri-Border community members take part in an experienced riders Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course at the JFC Brunssum Slag Heap on April 21.

3. Hold the handlebars firmly; a great shuddering may take place as the out-of-round tire flops against the pavement, but you are concerned only with keeping the front wheel pointed ahead until you stop.

### STUCK THROTTLES:

Most riders have had bad dreams about this, but few have experienced the problem. That is why all contemporary motorcycles have a cut-off switch by the right thumb. Just in case. Practice flipping the cut-off switch. Chances are you will never have a throttle stick, but if you do, you'll know how to deal with it. As you hit the cut-off switch, pull in the clutch (you will probably be in gear; then look for a safe place to coast to a stop.

### BROKEN CLUTCH CABLES:

Imagine you are cruising along in fifth gear; you want to shift down; you pull in the clutch lever – and there is no return action. It just lies up against the handle grip. No fun, but not dangerous. You can shift the bike without a clutch. This is not advisable unless necessary, but it can be done. Back off on the throttle and shift down a gear. If you have a sensitive foot, you can probably find neutral before coming to a complete stop. If not, get set for a jerky halt.

Schinnen Safe Riders – Drive to Arrive.

## Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge opens to youth from all services

By IMA-Europe MWR Marketing

To demonstrate support for families of deployed service members from all branches of military service, the Installation Management Agency-Europe will offer spaces in this summer's Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge sessions to middle and high school youth from all services, IMA-E officials announced today.

Youth whose deployed active duty parent is serving in the Navy or Marines are eligible to apply along with their peers who have a parent in the Army or Air Force, to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge on a space-available basis. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for the four one-week camp sessions. The eligibility criteria, is that the active duty parent must be currently deployed, returned from deployment or de-

ploying in the near future.

IMA-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge; the acronym A.R.M.Y. stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth. The camps will offer youth the chance to get away for a week of traditional camp fun as well as the chance to meet other kids facing the same challenges of having a military parent deployed. All camp sessions will include activities to help campers develop strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployment.

Middle school and high school students whose active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine parent is deployed between June 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, are eligible to apply.

Camp sessions for grades

6-8 will be held July 9-15 and July 23-29 at Camp Darby, Italy. Camp sessions for grades 9-12 will be at Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 18-24 and August 13-19; the high school camp sessions will not conflict with either the Summer Hire Program or high school sports team's practices.

The only cost is a \$50 camp registration fee which will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge will not fund any air or individualized transportation. Transportation to all camps will be provided from the centralized bus pick-up points in Germany and Italy. Complete Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge information and the application form are available online at [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com). The deadline to apply is May 5.

## Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

**May 3-7:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> *Art Amsterdam/KunstRAI* held in the RAI, Amsterdam (NL) will be more international this year than ever. Not only will all the top Dutch galleries be present, there will also be a huge increase in the international representation. International representation will be from Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Denmark and Italy. The fair is held in the Parkhall (hall #8). Open: May 3, 6-10 p.m.; May 4, 6 and 7, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and May 5, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Admission: €5. Catalogue: €5. Info:

[www.kunstrai.nl](http://www.kunstrai.nl).

**May 5-6:** *When Moulin Blues Comes To Town*, a blues festival in Ospel (NL). Since the early eighties this blues festival established itself as the no. 1 blues stage in the Netherlands. The festival terrain is accommodated with lots of facilities for the one-day visitor as well as the 'happy blues camper'. There are several stands for food and beverages and a mini-market. Performing are (among others) Robert Cray Band; The Gourds; Alvin Youngblood Hart; Shawn Sahm & The Tex Mex Experience. Entry May 5 - €2; May 6 - €7.

**May 5-7:** *Pasar Malam Asia*, Asian market at Glanerbrook in Geleen (NL). Open: May 5, 1-10 p.m.; May 6, 1-11 p.m.; May 7, noon-8

p.m.

**May 6-7:** *Full-Speed Rosmalen*, an event for the car-enthusiast where one will find everything for your car. Location: Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Entry: €14. Information: 0031-(0)73-6293292.

*Home & Garden Fair* in the historic center of Thorn (NL). Open May 6, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; May 7, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**May 7:** *Flea Market* in the center of Geulle (NL). Starts at 10 a.m.

*Year Market* in the center of Stevensweert (NL), 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Through May 7:** *Open Cockpit Days* at Military Air Museum in Soesterberg (NL). This is a good opportunity to sit in a pilot's seat. No entrance fee. Info: 0031-(0)346-356000.

**May 10-Sept. 13:** Every Wednesday visitors will find from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. an *Antique and Flea Market* at the Market Square in the center of Gouda (NL).

**May 13-14:** *Days of the Dutch Army* at Johannes Postkazerne in Havelte (NL). The Dutch Army demonstrates during these open days her contribution to national and international peace and safety with many shows and

demonstrations. No entrance fee. Info: [www.landmacht.nl](http://www.landmacht.nl) (English version).

**May 14:** *Flea Market* in the center of Meerssen (NL), 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Through May 19:** The "*Keukenhof*", the world's largest flower garden near the city of Lisse (NL) is open again. The park owes its name to Countess Jacoba van Beieren who grew herbs and vegetables there for her kitchen. Nowadays, over six million flower bulbs provide beautiful scenic spots throughout the park. Three large glass palaces are filled with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and smaller flowers. The several flower shops in the park can mail bulbs to the U.S. for customers. Open daily 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Entry is €12.50; children (4-11 yr) €5.50; parking €5. For more information visit:

[www.keukenhof.nl](http://www.keukenhof.nl).

**May 28, June 18, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29:** *Antique Market* in the center of Valkenburg (NL), located across the VVV (Tourist) Office.

**Through Sept. 8:** A traditional *Cheese and Old Crafts Market* is held every Friday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Waagplein in the center of Alkmaar (NL).

### Who's the **BOSS!!!**

#### Chili-Dog Day

May 15 is BOSS Chili-Dog Day and what a bargain! \$3 will get you two delicious chili-dogs, chips and a drink.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. in the US Delegation Room on HQ JFC Brunssum

#### Flea Market

The annual *BOSS Flea Market* comes to the Schinnen Sports Center on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity to save on used items or make some money on items you might needlessly throw away. Refreshments will be served. For sellers, tables are payable in advance and cost \$5 or 5 euros. Setup begins at 9 a.m. Deadline to reserve your table is 2 June. For more information please contact 364-2940 or 046 526-2940.



### Tri-Border Walking Club

The Tri-Border Walking Club invites you to its 24<sup>th</sup> annual international volksmarch on Sunday, May, 14 2006. Recognized by the International Volksmarch Federation (IVV), the club is offering new routes of 5, 10, and 20 km distances that will take you through the picturesque Brunssumerheide. The Start Hall is at the JFC HQ Brunssum Sports Complex (Slag Heap).

Starting times for the 5 and 10 KM are 07:30 - 13:00. The starting time for the 20 KM is 07:30 - 12:00. Cost for the IVV stamp is 1 Euro, while the IVV stamp and sticker is 1.50 Euro. There will be plenty of parking, and refreshments will be available. The walk will be held whatever the weather.

For more information, please call +31 (0)45-527-6356 or

e-mail: [kabenke@prettel.nl](mailto:kabenke@prettel.nl).



# Latin Connection

featuring the sounds of *Salsa and Latin Music*



**5 May** 7 p.m. at the  
**Schinnen Sports Center**

Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card holders





# 2006 Tri-Border Independence Day Celebration

Make it a Yankee-Doodle-Dandy Day

## Saturday 8 July

starts noon at  
**HQ JFC Brunssum**

Featuring 12 Grammy  
Awards winner country singer  
and songwriter Thom Shephard,  
The Orlando Magic Cheerleaders,  
U.S./Brit band "Bootleg" and a  
spectacular fireworks display.

Open to all U.S./NATO ID card holders.

**For more information call**  
DSN 360-7207 / CIV 046-443 7207





# **GRASS ROOTS ENTERTAINMENT.**

Experience the beauty and power of Polynesia! The elaborately costumed Ma'ohi Nui dancers will entertain you as the dance to the beat of thunderous drums, conch shells, and traditional music. Directed by Mervyn Lilo, who starred in box office hits *Six Days Seven Nights* and *Be Cool*, Ma'ohi Nui will take you on a South Pacific journey to experience the cultural dances of Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand and Hawaii

**THURSDAY 11 MAY 6 P.M.**  
**AT THE**  
**SCHINNEN SPORTS CENTER**

## Transportation Tips for your Summer Move

By Mena Friedrichs

As the temperature heats up in the summer, the workload here in our Transportation Personal Property Office heats up as well.

In Transportation we refer to the middle of May through the middle of August as our **"Peak Season"**, approximately 60 percent of all Department of Defense personal property moves take place in this short 90 day period. From our standpoint it isn't advisable to make a peak season move, but we fully understand that it's simply more convenient for families to relocate during this time period. Therefore we will be prepared for the onslaught and do our very best to make your move a success.

If you are moving, here's how you can help us, as soon as you get your orders (**orders are mandatory**) call our office at **360-7572, 7575, or 7604** and make an appointment. If you show up without an appointment, it could mean that you'll have to wait until we have an opening. We want to provide quality service for everyone by ensuring that we spend enough time with each customer. **Please make an appointment.**

Start thinking now about what you want to ship, take a look around the house and decide what you need to get rid of; obviously if you're going back to the states you won't need any of those 220 volt appliances which would be better off in the Thrift Shop. Think of any large or heavy items that you may have purchased while you were here and add that to the amount you shipped over. Do everything possible to **avoid being over your weight allowance**. Excess weight is very expensive, as an example, the current estimated cost for excess weight to the nearest east coast port is about one dollar per pound.

Getting the move date you want during the peak season is not always possible. The local commercial companies quickly become saturated and their capacity to accept moves can be extremely limited. If we can't get you the day you want, we will try to get one as close to that date as possible. As a general rule, the last week of the month is the busiest time for moves and Friday's are always busier than Mondays. **The first part of the week, and the first part of the month, is the best time to move.** The best possible scenario would be for you

to give us at least 30 days from the date of your appointment to the date of the pack and pickup. It goes without saying that short-notice moves will be very difficult for the carriers to accommodate. Just as a side note, our office will be closed between the dates of 25 - 30 May.

We hope that it won't be necessary, but making an inventory of high value items is a good idea. The best way to do this is by taking pictures of those items, this will help down the road if you need to file a claim. Also, try to schedule your pickup date at least a few days before the date you have to be out of your residence. This will give you time to adjust to any unforeseen problems. **Plan ahead so you won't have to change any dates, changes are time consuming and require a valid justification.**

Finally, we are here to serve and want you to finish your tour with a great move. After you have made your appointment you will receive additional information from one of our Personal Property Counselors. We will do our best to explain everything in full detail and assist you in anyway possible.

## Fire Safety

Although electrical equipment is generally safe and reliable all appliances are still subject to wear and tear. Electrical equipment can fail, short out, or overheat thereby becoming a potential fire hazard. Don't tempt fate! Turn off electrical equipment when not needed. Before you leave your work area at the end of the day, leave your house, retire for the night, whatever the circumstances, check to see if all electrical equipment (i.e. computers, typewriters, coffee pots, TV's, radios, copiers, etc.) is literally turned off, and not left on standby. Periodically check your equipment for damage or signs of excessive wear. Precautionary measures and habits contribute to fire prevention. You can prevent fires!



## **PERSONAL RECORDS: FOR YOUR PERSONAL PROTECTION**

By The Netherlands Law Center

The birds are chirping, the trees and flowers are beginning to bloom and the days are getting longer. To a seasoned military family these signs of spring are also an indication that PCS season is rapidly approaching. In fact, if you are scheduled to PCS this coming summer and you do not yet have your RFO or actual PCS orders, right about now, you are progressively beginning to stress-out and your spouse has made your home-life fairly uncomfortable.

PCS is the military acronym for *permanent change of station*. PCS could also represent a *property control sheet* or, *personal checklist schedule* or, *preserved catalogue self-recording* or even *picture characterization statement*. However, you want to play with the words, each PCSing soldier has a personal financial interest in ensuring that his or her property is properly documented, inventoried and accounted for prior to his or her PCS Move.

### **BREAK, BREAK—Jump Forward to September 2006**

“But my ride really was a new magnesium alloy-reinforced chassis Dell XPS M1710 gaming computer worth \$4,000!!! And, it really was brand new when I shipped it! And . . . it certainly is not my fault that the packers or movers or shippers appropriated my ride somewhere along the line for their own use!!! No, I have no receipts—I packed them with the computer. No, I have no pictures, owner’s manuals, or other independent proof of ownership or value. But, I am a soldier, why is my word not good enough?”

Unfortunately, Claims Offices around the world hear these words from soldiers who have received less than they thought were entitled to under US Army claims procedures. The answer to their question is straightforward: 31 USC Section 3721 is the legal authority that permits Claims Offices to pay soldiers and DA civilians for losses

incident to service.

The Personnel Claims Act (PCA) authorizes payment within certain limits for substantiated loss or damage of personal property during a PCS relocation. The PCA is not a substitute for property insurance. You pay no premium for PCA coverage. It is another one of those military benefits you are eligible for based on your federal employment. However, the law states that you must be able to substantiate a loss and the value of your loss. The procedure is no different than an itemized deduction claimed on your federal or state income tax return or a reimbursable TDY expense claimed on your SF 1164 or DD Form 1351-2 voucher.

Sometimes, it is difficult to substantiate the loss of your property or the value of the damage after the loss has occurred. Fortunately, if you are prepared, you can minimize the stress associated with later filing a claim at your new duty station. There are several easy steps that you can take prior to your PCS move to substantiate the quality, condition and value of your possessions before you depart The Netherlands:

a. **Keep receipts** of high-value purchases. Retain Owners Manuals for appliances and other expensive items. Set aside a folder for sales receipts and Owners Manuals.

b. **Take pictures or make a videotape** of your property. When receipts are not available, pictures can often show the unique nature and value of your personal property.

c. For very valuable items such as jewelry, antiques, baseball card collections, etc., you may want to **obtain an appraisal**. The appraisal should reflect the condition and the value of the item.

d. **Make a detailed personal inventory** of all your property. A detailed personal inventory will help you to remember all of your property, especially when some of the property is going into long-term storage. It is not a substitute for other forms of substantiation, but it can support your claim at your next duty station.

e. **Do not ship your proof of ownership** documents or the pictures or the videotape you made **with your PCS items**. Hand-carry these important documents or mail them ahead to your sponsor or leave them with a trusted colleague or neighbor here in Europe. They are only an email or phone call away once you have a new address. Even better, scan the documents and email the file to your AKO account.

f. Ensure that the carrier **prepares a complete and accurate inventory**. The carrier should accurately list high-value items packed, the quality and the quantity. Keep the telephone number of the Transportation Office QA representative handy in the event that the movers are non-responsive to your requests or are otherwise not acting in a professional manner.

Take the time necessary to plan for your PCS Move and the day will be far less stressful when it finally arrives. You worked hard for your possessions, so take the time to inventory them. Note: In the world of personal finance, it is not how much money one makes that is critical, but, it is how much one can save and invest that determines one’s financial security over the long run.

Talk to the friendly folks at the NeLC Claims Office if you have additional questions concerning your upcoming PCS Move at DSN 364-6211 or (0031) 45 563-6211.



National Volunteer Week, 2006

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Throughout our country, volunteers make America stronger and better by reaching out to help their neighbors in need. During National Volunteer Week, we recognize the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference in the lives of others and reaffirm our commitment to supporting these soldiers in the armies of compassion.

In the 1830s, a Frenchman named Alexis de Tocqueville visited our Nation and saw that the secret to America's success was our talent for bringing people together for the common good and our willingness to serve a cause greater than self. Today, the great strength of America is still found in the hearts and souls of our people. By making a commitment to service, integrity, and good citizenship, our Nation's volunteers show their gratitude for the blessings of freedom and help build a more hopeful future for our children and grandchildren.

Since we created USA Freedom Corps in 2002, my Administration has matched millions of willing volunteers with opportunities to serve in their communities. These kind-hearted individuals help people who hurt, mentor children who need love, feed those who are hungry, and shelter those who need homes. In the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes of 2005, people throughout our great Nation opened their hearts to help the Gulf Coast recover and rebuild. We will continue to foster the efforts of the millions who care deeply about the future of our country and the plight of their fellow citizens. Americans can find more information about volunteer service opportunities in their own hometowns by visiting the USA Freedom Corps website at [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov).

Our Nation is a force for freedom and prosperity, and our greatness is measured by our character and how we treat one another. During National Volunteer Week, and throughout the year, we appreciate the millions of volunteers across America and strive to be a more compassionate and decent society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 23 through April 29, 2006, as National Volunteer Week. I call upon all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important work that volunteers do every day throughout our country. I also encourage citizens to explore ways to help their neighbors in need and serve a cause greater than themselves.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

*All USAG Schinnen and Tri-border Volunteers are invited to the USAG Schinnen Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony to be held May 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Schinnen Sports Center. For full details please call AVCC (Annual Volunteer Corps Coordinator) at 360-7451/7500.*

Due to the Dutch National Liberation Day holiday, the following facilities will be closed on Friday, May 5

Transportation Motor Pool  
Drivers Training and Testing  
Personal Property Office  
Shuttle Bus/ Official Travel Office  
Property Book Office  
Self Service Supply Center  
Central Issue Facility  
Central Receiving and Shipping Point

Housing Office and Service Order desk ( the service order desk number will be forwarded to the MP desk)

TSC Schinnen/ Treebeek (anyone needing equipment/business transactions should get it concluded before 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 4.

The Local National SAEDA Briefing will be held on May 17 in classrooms 1& 2. The briefing times are 9:00, 10:30, 1:00, and 2:30

**Calling all child actors!!!!**

**The Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT), the nation's largest touring children's theatre, will be holding auditions for a play adaptation of the classic children's fairytale, *Hansel and Gretel* at the AFNORTH International School mini-gym on Monday, May 22 at 3:30 p.m. Children Kindergarten age through High School are welcome to try-out. Between 50 and 60 roles will be cast.**